



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - February 4, 2002

- ***In the West***, cool weather lingers, resulting in frosts and light freezes (temperatures near or slightly below 32 degrees F) as far south as ***southern California***. The cold weather pattern, which developed in mid-January, is not adversely affecting ***California's*** citrus fruits and trees, and is in fact providing beneficial “chill hours” for fruit and nut trees.
- ***On the Plains***, cool, dry weather prevails. Winter wheat from ***southern Nebraska to Texas*** continues to benefit from the recent snow and ice storm, although local recovery efforts continue in the ice storm's wake. Meanwhile, extremely dry conditions persist from ***western Nebraska northward through Montana***, accompanied by the return of breezy weather.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold, breezy weather is increasing stress on livestock, following previously mild weather from November through late January. Snow showers and squalls are affecting the ***Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers are confined to the ***Gulf Coast region***. Elsewhere, cool, increasingly cloudy weather is slowing the development of pastures and winter grains, following recent record warmth.

Outlook: Cool weather is forecast to persist across most of the U.S. for the remainder of the week. By mid-week, however, milder weather will begin to overspread the ***High Plains***, especially across drought-stricken ***Montana***. Significant precipitation will be confined to the ***Northwest*** and the ***South***. In the latter region, snow is possible as the week progresses from the ***southern Plains to the southern Mid-Atlantic States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 9-13 calls for a return to mild weather and above-normal precipitation nearly nationwide. The precipitation will be beneficial in most areas, including the ***Northwest, Plains, upper Midwest, and the Eastern Seaboard***. An exception to the wet pattern is expected from the ***Delta to the lower Great Lakes region***.

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